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of the Engineers, instead of attempting to write an entirely new memoir. During the interval which has elapsed since the first publication of the work, some new facts and anecdotes have become known to him, and in the reprint which forms the substance of the volume now before us these have been inserted in the proper place; some passages have been omitted, in order that the topics discussed in them might be treated with greater fulness elsewhere, or because they had little connection with the principal subject; and numerous verbal alterations have been made. These additions, omissions, and changes, so far as they relate to the life, character, or works of George Stephenson, are obvious improvements; and if no other additions had been made, they would render the memoir still more worthy of the popularity it has enjoyed. But the author has deliberately sacrificed all the advantages which his work would have derived from this careful revision, by incorporating with the text a short account of the life of Robert Stephenson, instead of appending it to the memoir of the elder Stephenson, as a separate and independent biography. It is true that there was a closer relation between the two than ordinarily exists between a father and a son; but this connection was not of such a character as to render it expedient to narrate their lives in one memoir, and the disadvantages of writing biography after such a method are so obvious, that it is to be hoped no subsequent writer will be tempted to follow the example. There was enough of incident in the life of Robert Stephenson to give interest to a separate memoir; and certainly his achievements as a railway engineer, and above all in the construction of the Britannia Bridge, were sufficient to justify such an honor to his memory. As it is, the reader of Mr. Smiles's volume who is already familiar with the career of the elder Stephenson, and who wishes to become acquainted with the life of the younger, must laboriously cull the facts from a large amount of old and irrelevant matter; and the same remark is equally applicable to the Life of George Stephenson, in the form in which Mr. Smiles has seen fit to print it. If the passages relating to his son which have been inserted were removed, the continuity of the narrative would be unbroken, and every one could see at a glance how carefully Mr. Smiles has revised his earlier work, and how much it has been improved.

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10. — *Something of Italy.* By W. CHAMBERS. Edinburgh and London: W. and R. Chambers. 1862. 16mo. pp. 133.

UNDER this modest title, Mr. William Chambers has brought together, from the excellent journal of which he is the principal editor, a

short series of papers, containing the record of a three months' excursion in Italy, during the spring and summer of 1862. Of the eleven chapters into which his volume is divided, four relate to Rome, and three to Naples and its environs. They do not present anything which is new, or which would be likely to escape the notice of any intelligent traveller; but they afford a very agreeable and graphic picture of the portions of Italy visited by him, and of some of the most striking peculiarities of the people. The style is clear and straightforward, as it is in all of Mr. Chambers's productions with which we are familiar, and, in spite of the want of novelty in its details, the book may be read with both pleasure and profit. It is illustrated by some very good woodcuts, for the most part copied from photographs.

11. — *Essays*. By HENRY THOMAS BUCKLE, Author of "A History of Civilization in England." With a Biographical Sketch of the Author. Illustrated with a Photographic Portrait. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1863. 12mo. pp. 209.

WHATEVER may be thought of the worth of Mr. Buckle's services to historical literature, and of the merits of his philosophical speculations, it will not be denied by any one that he was an able, ingenious, and often eloquent writer. These characteristics are obvious on every page of his larger work, and they may be traced with not less clearness in the little volume now before us. It comprises only two papers,—one a review of Mr. Mill's book on "Liberty," first printed in *Frazer's Magazine*, we believe, two or three years ago, and the other a lecture on "The Influence of Women on the Progress of Knowledge," read before the Royal Institution in London, in March, 1858. The first of these papers is the more able and elaborate of the two, and is marked by the intellectual boldness and the ardent love of freedom by which Mr. Buckle's *History* is characterized, while it also exhibits the same arrogance and dogmatism, and the same positiveness of statement. To Mr. Mill hearty and unstinted praise is rendered, and many of the incidental observations are not less admirable for the clearness and force with which they are presented, than for their intrinsic weight and importance; but the asperity with which Mr. Justice Coleridge is attacked deprives a portion of the argument of much of its just weight, and some other parts of the article are also open to severe criticism. The lecture on "The Influence of Women" is, on the whole, feeble and unsatisfactory, exhibiting Mr. Buckle's weakness rather than his strength, and much of it is occupied with the discussion of secondary topics. Its